

## DISTRICT SAFETY & HEALTH NOTES

From  
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Whether you are a miner or mine operator, your health is important to us. If you have a problem or question regarding dust, noise, chemicals or other health-related issues, generally it's best to talk to the inspector assigned to your mine before you call us. They are usually familiar with your particular property and working conditions. But if you do call us directly, we will assist you in any way that we can.

### "Major" Miner Responsibilities

Help your miners to take a part in their own safety and health. Mine operators have primary responsibility under the law for their employees' safety and health, but each individual makes decisions minute by minute that affect their own well-being.

Miners should especially focus on watching out for one another. There is nothing old-fashioned about the "buddy system." To paraphrase a popular ad slogan, "Friends don't let friends endanger themselves or others."



Steve Viles (left) shown fit-testing Bruce Palmer with a respirator for use in various mine environments in the district.

### Try a Health Maintenance Schedule

Sometimes you may feel that complying with all MSHA health-related standards is overwhelming. One way to get on top of the situation is to set up a "health maintenance schedule" at your mine.

Chances are you already have an equipment maintenance schedule for your shop that reminds you when to lubricate or service equipment. That's because you have a lot of money invested in that equipment, and preventive maintenance saves you money in the long run.

You also have a great deal invested in your miners, and preventive actions save you money and save lives and health in the long run.

Respirator fit testing, audiograms, health hazard training, dust and noise surveys, MSDS and label reviews are just a few of the regular activities you can put on your annual calendar, and thereby be "ahead of the curve."

Of course creating a "Health Maintenance Calendar" is not an MSHA requirement – just a recommended "best practice." But putting such regular activities on a calendar can help identify and resolve little problems before they become big ones.

We appreciate all the good things you do to care for the health and well-being of the miner. As the first sentence of the Mine Act reads, **miners are the mining industry's "most precious resource"!**